

thank her for being a true Oregon Health Care Hero.●

HONORING DR. WILLIAM P. FOSTER

● Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an innovative musician and Floridian, Dr. William P. Foster. For over 50 years, Dr. Foster was conductor of the internationally acclaimed Florida A&M University Marching "100" Band. Throughout his musical career at FAMU, Dr. Foster has been credited with revolutionizing marching band techniques and redefining the marching band as an art form. Dr. Foster's dedication to excellence in education through the arts has enriched the lives of Floridians and Americans.

In June of 1946, Dr. Foster came to Florida A&M University to establish the Marching "100" Band. Since its inception, the band has participated in more than 200 half-time pageants, has appeared in three films, three commercials, and numerous magazine and newspaper articles. The band has appeared on 60 Minutes, 20/20 and PM Magazine telecasts and thirty-four nationally televised performances on all networks with a viewing audience of over five billion people. On October 26, 1984, the FAMU Marching Band was presented the prestigious Sudler Intercollegiate Marching Band Trophy. In 1989, the band was selected by the French government, to serve as America's official representative in the Bastille Day Parade, celebrating the Bicentennial of the French Revolution. The band also appeared in both of President Bill Clinton's inaugural parades, in January of 1993 and 1997. This list of band appearances and honors is by no means exhaustive.

Dr. Foster's contributions to FAMU have earned him State and national recognition as well. He is a member of the Hall of Fame for several organizations including the National Association for Distinguished Band Conductors, the Florida Music Educators Association and the Afro-American Hall of Fame, to name a few. In 1994, he was elected president of the American Bandmasters Association and in 1996, President Bill Clinton nominated, and the U.S. Congress approved Dr. Foster's presidential appointment to serve on the National Council on the Arts. In August of 2003, Dr. Foster's efforts were recognized again by the State of Florida, when he was inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame. This award acknowledges individuals who contribute to Florida's national and international reputation as a State with a strong and sustained commitment toward the development of cultural excellence.

Dr. Foster has taken an active role to ensure the continued musical involvement of the FAMU student body. As an inspired bandleader and advisor, Dr. Foster sought financial support to aid his undergraduate students in the

Marching "100" Band. Initially, Dr. Foster gave thousands of dollars of his own money, and started to work with large and small corporations, and private citizens. However, Dr. Foster was never satisfied with the level of support he received for the students. When Dr. Foster stepped down as Director of Bands and Department Chairman, he set forth to dedicate his attention the creation of a foundation. To this end, and with the assistance of Mr. Harold E. Byrd, Sr., on April 22, 1998 the William P. Foster Foundation was established.

Mr. President, I commend Dr. William P. Foster for his commitment to education, music and philanthropy. His commitment to education and philanthropy is an example to us all. For his many years of public service, I am proud to acknowledge the work of Dr. William P. Foster.●

HONORING DR. OSWALD P. BRONSON, SR.

● Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a fine humanitarian and Floridian, Dr. Oswald P. Bronson, Sr., who will be retiring in June 2004. An educator and spiritual leader, Dr. Bronson has spent his life building bridges between the college and the community. Throughout his 28-year career as President of Bethune-Cookman College, Dr. Bronson has overseen tremendous growth and improvements on campus. Dr. Bronson's dedication to excellence in education and community advocacy has enriched the lives of Floridians and Americans.

Dr. Bronson's leadership and achievements at Bethune-Cookman College are a benchmark in higher education. Under his guidance, the college has nearly doubled its enrollment to 2,500. It has raised its community economic impact to \$250 million, boosted endowments from \$1.2 million to \$25 million, and increased its total operating budget from \$6 million to more than \$45 million. His vibrant personality, genuine concern for the growth of the institution, and commitment to the founder's vision, enable him to bring unprecedented private, corporate and governmental support to the institution.

Active on campus and off, Dr. Bronson's belief in service to the community is evident in his numerous outside activities, including his appointment to an advisory post by former President Bill Clinton. He has served as chairman and president of prestigious educational and religious organizations nationwide, including his most recent appointment to the Board of Directors for the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Dr. Bronson is an ordained United Methodist Church minister, and former president of the Interdenominational Theological Seminary. He has served as a pastor in Florida, Georgia and Illinois for 16 years, and has lectured and taught in numerous mission schools,

clinics, pastoral institutes and leadership training seminars.

Dr. Bronson has fostered and strengthened Bethune-Cookman College's relationship with the local community and the world. A thoughtful and well-respected member of the Bethune-Cookman College family, Dr. Bronson has advocated for increased diversity and understanding on campus and off. I am pleased that outstanding Floridians like Dr. Bronson are setting an example for communities across our Nation, and I want to thank him for his service.●

SQUAW VALLEY PARK DEDICATION

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am pleased to announce the dedication of Squaw Valley Park in Placer County, CA.

Two decades ago, the Placer County Board of Supervisors and local community partners began their search for an ideal site for a community park. Their final choice was Squaw Valley, located within the Tahoe National Forest. Squaw Valley, which is internationally renowned as the site of the 1960 VIII Winter Olympic Games, is one of the crown jewels of the Sierra Nevada.

This park is also significant because its creation is the result of historic legislation, signed by President Clinton on July 29, 1998, allowing the U.S. Forest Service to conduct land transactions through sale rather than land exchange. I was proud to support this new approach because it saves taxpayers money through a much expedited transaction process.

When completed next spring, Squaw Valley Park will provide an exceptional recreational environment in which local residents and visitors will be able to enjoy this breathtaking region of California. I commend all those who have made the dream of Squaw Valley Park a reality.●

IPS CHARITY DYE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 27: WINNER OF THE NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS AWARD

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Indianapolis Public School Charity Dye Elementary 27 as a recent recipient of the prestigious No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools Award.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program was established in 1982 to identify and recognize outstanding public and private schools across the United States. In keeping with the principles of the No Child Left Behind Act—the education reform bill signed into law in 2002—the requirements for this award have been strengthened and now focus more intently on student achievement results.

Charity Dye Elementary School is an Indianapolis inner-city school, and is the first IPS school to receive this award in nearly 20 years. While the